THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested the Central Government for setting up nuclear power project in the State. The Site Selection Commitee (SSC) of the Government has evaluated potential of sites, offered by the State Governments for locating nuclear power plants in different States including Madhya Pradesh. The report of the SSC is under consideration of the Government for in principle approval of the sites recommended by the Site Selection Committee. The setting up of nuclear power project would depend on the nuclear power programme and establishment of the fuel linkages.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Plan to boost research in nuclear sector**

†1788. DR. BARUN MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) plans to boost research in nuclear sector in the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the proposed budgetary allocation and under what different heads, in details; and

(c) whether this move indicates Government's confidence in India's capabilities to go ahead in nuclear energy front without foreign assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STAE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An outlay of Rs. 11,000 crore has been allocated by the Planning Commission under the R&D Sector of DAE during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The R&D activities of the Department are divided into seven major programmes and the allocation of outlay under Eleventh Five Year Plan for each of these major programmes is given below:

(Rs. in crore)

| Sl. No. | Major Programme No. | Title | Eleventh Plan outlay |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1.0 | Nuclear Power Programme Stage-I | 879.36 |
| 2 | 2.0 | Nuclear Power Programme Stage-2 | 409.84 |
| 3 | 3.0 | Nuclear Power Programme Stage-3 and beyond | 1935.52 |
| 4 | 4A | Advanced technologies and their applications | 2264.00 |
| 5 | 4B | Radiation Technology and their applications | 485.43 |
| 6 | 5.0 | Basic Research | 2548.09 |
| 7 | 6.0 | Research Education linkage | 1389.20 |
| 8 | 7A | Infrastructure | 861.07 |
| 9 | 7B | Housing | 207.16 |
| 10 | | Atomic Energy Regulatory Board | 20.33 |
| | | TOTAL: | 11000.00 |

(c) Yes, Sir, However, we are also working to develop international civil nuclear cooperation to bring in additionalities to nuclear electricity generation programme.

**Self-reliance in the field of Atomic Energy**

1789. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of fuel for atomic plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is having any plan to become self-reliant in the field of Atomic Energy to ensure the atomic autonomy; and

(d) if so, by when the country is likely to become self-reliant in the field of atomic fuel sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) There is a mismatch at present between supply and demand of fuel for the Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors.

(b) Improved operation of Nuclear power reactors, reduction in gestation period of reactors under constructions and unanticipated delays in opening of new uranium mines has created a gap in supply and demand at present.

(c) Yes, Sir. Technologically we are already self-reliant.

(d) Augmentation of uranium supply for the reactors in operation and future first stage reactors is receiving the attention of the Government at the highest level. Resulting out of these efforts the situation will progressively improve in the Eleventh Plan. The installed nuclear power capacity will be enhanced progressively.

**Coal blocks allocated for new power plants**

†1790. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal blocs allocated in October, 2006-07 for setting up coal-based new power plants in the private sector;

(b) the volume of coal reserves in the Chhattisgarh State in the country; and

(c) the time-frame within which power-plants are to be set up by the companies which had been allocated coal blocks in Chhattisgarh and other State (Jharkhand)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) 11 coal blocks with reserves of about 2238.18 million tonnes have been allocated since October, 2006 for setting up of new power projects in the private sector.

(b) The volume of coal reserves as on 01.01.2007 in the State of Chhattisgarh is about 41450 million tonnes.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.